


2004 Initiatives



**Crime
& Drugs**

**Building
Safe
Communities**

Public safety is one of the fundamental responsibilities of government. Safe neighborhoods promote a sense of social well-being and are essential if our state is to flourish. Our children need to be safe at school, grandparents need to be safe when crossing the street, women need to be safe walking to their cars at night. And visitors need to return home with all the valuables they brought on vacation.



Community-based efforts empowering citizens to prevent crime – such as Neighborhood Watch and Weed and Seed programs – are part of the solution. But these programs need to be complemented by strong local law enforcement, tough penalties for criminal behavior, adequate incarceration facilities, focused rehabilitation and enhanced prevention programs.

Our anti-crime initiatives to build safe communities are three-pronged: combating substance abuse, increasing public safety and protecting vulnerable young people from being victimized.

Combating Substance Abuse

In September of last year, Lt. Governor James “Duke” Aiona, Jr. convened the Drug Control Strategy Summit to identify approaches for tackling illicit drug use and underage drinking.



It is a problem that generates much compassion because it has affected so many of us, but acting on that compassion with solutions that work has been difficult. This problem didn't happen suddenly – it has been years in the making. Past efforts to fight illegal drugs and underage drinking lacked coordination, and our people suffered as a result.

Prior to the state's first drug summit, Lt. Governor Aiona listened to residents' suggestions on how to deal with this problem at 14 community forums held across the state. Many of our initiatives are based on recommendations he received from community leaders and citizens at those forums. Our proposals include:

- **Creating more after-school programs targeted at middle school students.**

These programs would be paid for with up to \$5 million in federal funds to provide healthy activities for children in the most vulnerable age group.

- Increasing drug treatment programs in our prisons and health centers through the addition of \$430,000 in state funds and \$3.6 million in federal money. This expenditure will augment the \$19.6 million already in the state budget for substance abuse treatment.
- Enhancing penalties for those who manufacture illicit drugs.
- Imposing serious prison time for a person who manufactures illegal drugs when a child is present, and imposing an additional five years if that child suffers bodily harm.
- Placing limits on the sale of chemicals that can be used to manufacture the drug “Ice.”
- Regulating the sale of certain laboratory items that can be used to make illegal drugs.
- Making permanent the law allowing judges to seize cars and other property belonging to convicted drug felons, and to use those assets to help communities harmed by criminals. The law allowing such seizures is set to expire on June 30 of this year.

- Curbing illegal sales of tobacco products, particularly to minors, through the Internet and retail establishments.
- Requiring retail outlets to obtain permits for selling tobacco products.
- Making it a class “C” felony to ship more than 1,000 untaxed cigarettes into Hawai‘i, and requiring a license for those who do ship cigarettes.

Increasing Law Enforcement’s Capabilities

Law enforcement’s hands have been tied for too long by judicial decisions that can only be overturned by changing the constitution. It is time we leveled the playing field between the criminals and those sworn to protect.

How many times have you read a newspaper story or seen a television report about a crime committed by a person with 10, 20 or more than 30 prior convictions? And how many times have you heard about innocent victims being injured or killed by drivers who were speeding or under the influence of alcohol or drugs?

To stop the “revolving door” syndrome and increase traffic safety, we propose:

- Strengthening Hawai‘i’s electronic surveillance laws. This is an important tool in the identification and arrest of drug dealers and other criminals.
- Authorizing a constitutional amendment legalizing the “walk and talk” and “knock and talk” programs. These are vital tools law enforcement officers need to identify and apprehend drug carriers at airports, harbors and suspected drug houses.
- Toughening mandatory sentencing laws to keep repeat offenders off the streets and away from our families.
- Making it a felony for people to continue driving after their license has been suspended or revoked.



Addressing Overcrowded Correctional Facilities

Tougher sentencing is not enough. There must be adequate facilities to house first-time offenders as well as repeat criminals. To address the immediate overcrowding situation in our correctional facilities, we request:

- An emergency appropriation of \$2 million to move 120 prisoners out of state now.
- \$5.9 million to transfer 220 prisoners to federal detention and out-of-state facilities in the coming fiscal year.
- \$8.4 million in emergency repairs and maintenance for jail and prison facilities on Kauaʻi and Oʻahu.
- \$1.5 million to develop plans and specifications to replace Oʻahu Community Correctional Center. This aged, overcrowded facility was poorly designed and is poorly located.

Protecting Our Most Vulnerable Populations



The process of building safe communities also means protecting those who are most vulnerable – children, senior citizens and people living in poverty. Therefore, our administration proposes:

- Adding child pornographers to the registry of sex offenders.
 - Amending the constitution to allow public access to records of sex offenders.
- Frequently referred to as Megan's Law, this would make it easier for parents to obtain information identifying sexual offenders in their communities.

- Allowing law enforcement officers with the departments of Public Safety and Attorney General to place an endangered child in protective custody. Currently only local police have this authority.
- Allowing police officers to enforce trespassing in public housing projects. Current laws treat these facilities as private property, making it difficult for police to remove disruptive individuals from projects housing the poor and elderly.

*“You can’t fight
21st century crimes
with 20th century
laws.”*

– Governor Linda Lingle